DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Cy #1

IN REPLY REFER TO

Op-322N/rwt
Ser 000152
31 July 1951

TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM

From: Director of Naval Intelligence.
To: Director of Central Intelligence.
       (Attn: Dr. William L. Langer)

Subj: NIE-25: Probable Soviet Courses of Action to Mid-1952.

Ref: (a) Draft of subject estimate dated 26 July 1951.
       (b) Revision of paragraphs 28 and 29, draft dated 30 July 1951.

1. The Director of Naval Intelligence requests that an asterisk be inserted at the end of paragraph 29 and the following footnote added thereto:

"* It is the view of the Director of Naval Intelligence, with respect to Section IV above, that the final paragraph of this estimate should read as follows:

'It is recognized that precise information on enemy intentions is rarely available and that enemy counteraction cannot be accurately predicted. However, all aspects of the Soviet problem considered, we believe it unlikely that the USSR will deliberately choose to precipitate or undergo the hazards of general war during the period covered by this estimate. Although the possibility of war by miscalculation cannot be discounted during periods of high international tension, we believe that in pursuing various courses of action short of war with the US, the USSR will seek to increase its power and damage the interests of the US whenever and wherever feasible, but will at every turn attempt to exploit each course of action with such caution as to avoid direct military aggression against the vital interests of the United States.'"

FELIX JOHNSON

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